ROC920000165US1

COLLATING TABLE FOR EMAIL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A collating table containing user-defined sort criteria in
ranked order is employed in sorting electronic mail messages
for display to the user. Entries within the collating table
prioritize unread and/or previously viewed messages based upon
the address of the sender or similar attributes, and may each
10   contain a specific username and domain address, a domain of
user addresses, or a plurality of addresses of either type.
Entries within the collating table may be fixed or dynamic,
with dynamic entries automatically updated based on historical
statistics relating to the frequency and/or speed of response
15   by the user to messages previously received from the sender,
speed of opening or deleting prior messages from the sender, or
some user-specified combination of such attributes. Addresses
within the dynamic entries may percolate up or down the ranking
of the collating table, with aging employed in removing
20   addresses from the collating table. Other users may be given
access to portions of the collating table to rank their own
messages to the user, and specific messages may be ranked
within or above any messages received from addresses within the
collating table until deleted.